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# IMPORT NEWS



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## **Wainfleet gets its cenotaph**



**GREG FURNINGER/  
STAFF PHOTO**  
**Members of Wainfleet's independent cenotaph committee, from left, Doug Willford, Jake Lobezzoo, Liz Aldrey and Bob Cumming chat in front of the village centre's newest addition. See story and additional photos on page 2.**

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# UPFRONT

**REMEMBRANCE:** Cenotaph dedication ceremony is Sunday

## War and peace – a new chapter begins in Wainfleet

GREG FURNIGER

QMI Agency Niagara

Jake Lobbezoo remembers as a child watching Nazi soldiers running through the streets of his Holland hometown.

"They were being chased by Canadian soldiers."

Forever grateful for this country's efforts in the liberation of Europe, Jake Lobbezoo is now thrilled that for the first time ever, Remembrance Day ceremonies will now have a special place in Wainfleet.

The township has its first cenotaph.

"We really appreciate what the Canadians did for us, and for that we have this," Lobbezoo said, looking at the granite "tablet" that now stands tall nearby the township hall.

Wainfleet's large Dutch community was among the many donors who contributed to the cenotaph, a project taken on by an inde-

pendent committee of about 15 people, and who represented such groups as the local Lions Club, firefighters' association and historical society.

"We all melded together, and this is the end result," said committee chair Doug Willford.

"I think it's beautiful. It's been a dream of Wainfleet for so many years."

They committee was spurred into action by a letter from the Wainfleet Women's Institute which had first requested that the town put up a cenotaph and erect a centennial plaque. It was put on hold because of costs, last pegged at more than \$180,000 in 2007.

The final project came in at about \$70,000, supported also by many other residents, businesses and services, and grants.

"The citizens of Wainfleet opened their souls and their pocketbooks," Willford said. As a result, Nov. 11 remem-

berance ceremonies will take on greater stature this year. The focus of Remembrance Day ceremonies until now had been limited to a handful of people standing around the township hall flagpole. On Nov. 11, a drive through the community's main street will lead to the town's H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park cenotaph.

"I was really amazed Wainfleet didn't have one," said Bob Cumming, a member of Welland's Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4 who served two tours of duty with a NATO fleet during the Cold War.

The Wainfleet man, who also served on the cenotaph committee, regularly visits area schools to teach students the importance of remembrance.

"We can't forget our past, so we don't repeat it," he said.

Cumming called it "deeply important" that Wainfleet have a cenotaph.

Until now, the only recog-

nition to the Wainfleet men and women who served during war was a bronze plaque with the names of those from Second World War, and a decorative scroll with the hand-printed names of those who served in the First World War. Both are displayed inside township council chambers.

Willford said they have drawn tears from his Dutch visitors.

Wainfleet lost nine men in the First World War and 10 in the Second World War. Willford said with the plus of funds in the cenotaph account will be used to forge a proper bronze plaque for Great War veterans and victims.

The cenotaph design was selected from three options floated to residents, and it received approval from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. Canada's Community War Memorial Program, which funded a substantial chunk of the project's costs.

Ground-up on land granted by the municipality, the cenotaph is complemented by three flagpoles — the township, Ontario and Canadian flags raised on a brick walkway, and three bell-shaped bells later made by Lakeshore Secondary School students.

In English and French, as required by law, the cenotaph states: "Dedicated to the brave men & women who served during war & peace."

Said Cumming: "You honor everybody who served."

A dedication ceremony for Wainfleet's cenotaph will take place this Sunday starting at 2 p.m.

"It's a satisfying feeling that we had a goal and we achieved it," said committee member Liz Aldrey. "It's a fine end to what we set out to do."



PHOTOS BY GREG FURNIGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Doug Willford, Wainfleet's independent cenotaph committee chairman, inspects the new addition to the township's village centre.



Wainfleet's First World War honour roll, which hangs in township council chambers. All names are hand-printed.



Wainfleet's Second World War memorial plaque, which hangs in township council chambers.

greg.furniger@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter @GregMTheTrib

# LOCAL NEWS

## NIAGARA VOTES 2014

# Big battle for regional council seat

DAN DAKIN

QMI Agency Niagara

While much of the focus in municipal election campaigns is placed on the mayoral candidates, there are some races heating up for the handful of regional council spots up for grabs in south Niagara.

Port Colborne will elect one. Wainfleet's lone representative at the region is the town's mayor.

Port Colborne's regional councillor race is expected to be one of the tightest in the region with incumbent David Barrick having to defend the spot from Vance Badaway, who is stepping down after four terms as mayor to run for the region seat.

### Regional Council Candidates

**Name:** Vance Badaway

**Age:** 49

**Occupation:** Mayor/ regional councillor, City of Port Colborne

**Family:** Married to Lisa with two daughters — Logan and Jordan

**Previous political experience:** City councillor (Ward 4) 1994-1997; mayor/regional councillor 1997-2003; 2006-2014

**Community work:** Port Colborne Kinsmen Club; Knights of Columbus; Coach - high school/ university hockey and soccer; International Shrimpsmaster & Shrimps Queen; Greater U.S./Way of South Niagara Standing board member; Wellspring Niagara; campaign chair; Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet

**Top issue:** Retaining and creating jobs, region and tax reform; To ensure the City of Port Colborne receives a fair share by receiving daily attention through my involvement with over 15 regional committees.

**Why are you running?** To continue to get the job done by accelerating the projects I have led at the regional level such as the creation of an Economic Gateway Strategy, regional infrastructure

VANCE  
BADAWAY

investment such as the reconstruction of Killaly St. West (\$6 million), Northland Pointe (\$23 million), Water and Wastewater (\$21 million) and the preservation of our police detachment. To also ensure a disciplined approach to our affordability strategy continues, resulting in low to no increases.

**Why voters should choose me?** Results. A strong experienced voice that works hard for the residents, a regional council leader on region and tax reform, leading a team to create economic strategies to create jobs. An established, experienced regional leader.

**Contact info:** 905-834-9079; [hadaway@niagara.ca](http://hadaway@niagara.ca); [www.badawayforregion.com](http://www.badawayforregion.com); [www.facebook.com/vancebadawayforregion](http://www.facebook.com/vancebadawayforregion)

**Name:** David Barrick

**Age:** 35

**Occupation:** Senior manager of operations with Niagara Parks Conservation Authority

**Family:** Married to Yikira Barrick with two children; daughter Kyra, 9, and son Caden, 7

**Previous political experience:** Barrick earned his B.A. (Hon) in political science with a minor in environmental law. He was elected to municipal offices in 2006 and elected to Niagara regional council in 2010. Co-chair of corporate services (finance) committee for Niagara region.

**Community work:** Chamber of Commerce board member; Port Cars board member; member of Brock University Niagara Community Observatory; Knights of Columbus member; former commercial chair for United Way; previous volunteer with Youth Soccer; recipient of the Top "40 Under 40" Business Achievement Award

**Top issue:** Respecting tax dollars: Barrick is a leader in keeping regional property tax increases low, with an average annual increase of just over 1% over the last four years. He voted against adding significantly to regional debt and pushed to keep the region's portion of the water bill low.



DAVID BARRICK

**Why are you running?** To ensure Port Colborne residents get value for their hard-earned tax dollars. To support seniors and young families by keeping Regional tax increases low; getting Port's fair share from the Region to and to facilitate job creation.

**Why voters should choose me?** Voters have a clear choice between Barrick's strong record of keeping taxes low and delivering results versus the other candidate's record of high tax increases, skyrocketing debt, rising water bills and crumbling infrastruc-

ture. Barrick listens to residents, knows how to prioritize spending, and treats taxpayer money with respect.

**Contact info:** 289-214-8252; [vote@davidbarrick.ca](mailto:vote@davidbarrick.ca); [www.davidbarrick.ca](http://www.davidbarrick.ca); [facebook.com/barrickforregion](http://facebook.com/barrickforregion)

## HELP WANTED

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

# What is a pastor?

**PASTOR MICHAEL MELEG**

Faith & St. Peter's Lutheran Churches, Dunnville & Port Colborne

What does God say about pastors? Every Christian should know the answer to this important question.

We understand God's Office of the Holy Ministry when we see, 1) how God talks about pastor, 2) what He expects of pastors and 3) who the enemies of those who head the pastor God has sent to them.

1) First, what are the most common biblical words that God uses to refer to pastors? The most common way of referring to the called servant of Christ in a Lutheran church is pastor. (This is the one office of "pastor and teacher." Ephesians 4:11.) The word pastor means "shepherd." God describes His servants in this way because He has sent them as under-shepherds of Christ's flock for His flock in the way that He commands (Acts 20:28-31; 1Peter 5:1-4). A pastor is called by God to feed, lead and protect the flock to which He has called him.

The term elder refers to pastors as having certain learning, authority and responsibility, and is connected to the word bishop/overseer (translated both ways; Acts 20:17-18a, 28; 1Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5-9).

The word minister means "servant" or "slave." God uses it because He has made

pastors servants of Jesus Christ who serve His people (1Corinthians 4:1-2; 2Corinthians 4:5).

2) Second, what does God require of pastors? They must read the Scriptures (privately and in the public service), focus on and communicate steadfastly the true doctrine of the bible and live godly lives; live faithfully, preach and teach the pure Word of God, convince doubters, rebuke sinners and false teachers, forgive the repentant, exhort God's people with all long suffering, and teaching, endure afflictions, continue as a messenger of the Gospel and feed (with the Word and sacraments), lead, guide, watch over people and doctrine, and protect the flock from the world and the Devil (1Timothy 4:12-16; 2Timothy 4:1-5, Acts 20:26; Jeremiah 23:28; 1Corinthians 4:1-2).

This last part about leading, guiding and protecting is part of the pastoral responsibility that seems to be better understood when these are clear and present dangers to the church. In times when people have trouble recognizing danger, it is all the more important for pastors to be discerning, familiar in the Word and doctrine. One of our confessions puts it this way, "Moreover, since for the preservation of pure doctrine and for thorough, permanent, godly unity in the Church it is necessary, not only that the pure, wholesome doctrine be rightly presented, but also that the opponents who teach otherwise be reproved" (1Timothy 3; 2Timothy 3:16; Titus 1:9) — for faithful shepherds ... should do both, namely, feed and nourish the sheep and resist the wolves, so that the sheep may flee from strange voices [John 10:12-16, 27] and may receive the promises from the Word" (1Timothy 1:12; First Rule of Concord, Thorough Declaration, Pref. 4).

3) Third, what does God require of those who hear their pastor? "We urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17). By God's command your pastor watches out for your soul and is accountable to God for his stewardship.

Jesus said to the seventy men He sent out to proclaim the Kingdom, "He who hears you hears Me; he who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" (Luke 10:16; see 1Corinthians 4:1; 16:15-16). Therefore, in spiritual matters of both faith and life, the man who has been rightly called to be your pastor is to be heard as God's chosen mouthpiece as long as he rightly

preaches and teaches God's Word. In worldly matters (who to vote for, how to do your job, the best way to fish or play hockey), his word is simply the opinion of a man. Pastors are sinners like everyone else, but they have serious and heavy responsibilities given to them by God. When you call your pastor, minister, priest or padre, please pray him.

What God says about pastors is clear. Jesus has arranged His church with pastors and heaters so His eternal, spiritual blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation, comfort, peace and joy are given to His holy people until He comes again in glory.

Therefore, pastors must be very careful about what they say and teach, and about every teaching in and among the people to whom God has called them. Yes, that also means he must review and critically analyze the services, hymns, prayers, books, pamphlets, devotional materials, videos, guest speakers, etc., and warn against false teachers and false teachings. It is a God-given responsibility. He is accountable to God, and will face His judgment (1Timothy 1:18).

How should Christians think of their pastor? Not as an adversary or as a good buddy or as just some hired man, but as St. Paul says, "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one found faithful" (1Corinthians 4:1-2).

## Shipwrecks – Jacqueline

**SKIP GILLHAM**  
 For QMI Agency Niagara

**U**sing computer skills that I do not possess, a friend recently found a picture of the remains of the freighter *Nike* ashore off Tarifa, Morocco.

The rusted out and abandoned vessel has been there since Feb. 10, 1965, when it stranded while waiting for a berth at Lasayene in the western Sahara region of Morocco.

The ship dates from 1958 and was French built and operated. It was designed as the small ore carrier *Jacqueline* and could carry up to 5,630 tonnes of cargo in the four cargo holds. The 116.70-metre-long vessel was built in 1958 and came back to sea still under the flag of France in 1962.

It was sold to Tulip Shipping and registered in Cyprus as *Kynarina* in 1972. It became the Greek flag *Pearl Trader* in 1976 and began sailing as *Nike* for Panamanian interests in 1978.

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For further information, contact Dave Johnson.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ LABOUR

### NPCA field workers, planners join union

**GREG FURNINGER**  
GM Niagara

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority employees have unionized.  
The Ontario Labour Relations Board

affirmed Sept. 30 that NPCA workers voted Sept. 3 to join OPSEU/NUPGE (Ontario Public Service Employees Union/National Union of Public and General Employees).

"Whether it's about working condi-

tions or disgruntled employees — I don't see anything to it," Carmen D'Angelo, the NPCA's chief administrative officer, said last week of employees' move to unionize.

He said conservation authority workers are unionized elsewhere in the province. So, too, added, are Niagara Parks workers.

"It's OK," he said. "We're standardizing all our labour practices and now we're doing it with the union."

There is no timeline established for negotiating a first contract, he said.

D'Angelo said the union will represent about 30 inside and outside workers including those in restoration, architectural, planners and parks field workers.

"These workers play a vital role in maintaining and preserving the natural beauty and habitats in the area, and ensuring that it isn't lost for future generations," OPSEU president Warren Thomas said in a news release.

Thomas could not be reached for comment for this story.



Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority offices on Thorold Rd. in Welland.

development."

NPCA is responsible for management and conservation of watershed lands in Niagara and portions of Haldimand and Hamilton and operates 36 conservation areas.

greg.furninger@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @GregATheTrib

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**The Doctor Game**  
W. Gifford-Jones M.D.

## Vitamin C : What You Don't Know About Its Multiple Benefits

I've previously written about Medi-C Plus, a high concentration of vitamin C and lysine powder, and how it can prevent and reverse atherosclerosis in coronary arteries. The combination is a revolutionary discovery. But vitamin C has many other amazing virtues.

Years ago, on long sea voyages up to 90 percent of sailors died from scurvy due to a lack of fruit and its vitamin C content. This vitamin is needed for the production of collagen, the glue that holds cells together. Without vitamin C the body disintegrates, blood vessels rupture causing massive hemorrhage and death.

Just 10 milligrams (mgs) of vitamin C prevents scurvy. But we need several thousand daily for other medical problems. For instance, millions of North Americans suffer from osteoarthritis. Without sufficient vitamin C to produce collagen, a major component of cartilage, bone eventually grinds on bone. There would be fewer joint replacements if more vitamin C were available to produce healthy collagen.

Rheumatoid arthritis, the inflammatory type, also requires large doses of vitamin C. Every moment of the day our bodies are using oxygen to keep us alive.

But oxidation results in metabolic ash, known as "free radicals", which are believed to trigger an inflammatory reaction in joints. Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant that helps to reduce damaging free-radicals.

Today billions of dollars are spent annually in North America on cataract surgery. The development of cataracts is a major degenerative disease and an aging population will require more of this surgery. Several studies show vitamin C can slow down the progression of cataracts.

The National Institute of Health reports that macular degeneration, a major cause of blindness, is a nutritional responsive disorder. Its study showed that vitamin C taken along with vitamin E, beta-carotene and zinc could also slow down the progression of this disabling disease.

Vitamin C fights what I've called generalized ascorbic acid deficiency disease (GAADD), by decreasing the risk of atherosclerosis, (hardening of arteries).

Every year in this country leg amputations are done due to a lack of blood supply causing gangrene of one or both extremities. Others lose eyesight from a blood clot in the ophthalmic artery.

The list of health benefits of vitamin C goes on and on. Dr. Robert F. Cathart, an expert on Orthomolecular Medicine, says people with asthma have low blood concentrations of vitamin C. He adds that, "A child having regular asthmatic attacks following exercise is usually relieved by high doses of vitamin C."

Here is a surprising fact that I wish I had known when I developed poliomyelitis during my final year at The Harvard Medical School. Unknown to my eminent professors, Dr. Frederick R. Klenner, a North Carolina physician, treated 60 patients suffering from this disease with massive intravenous doses of vitamin C. None suffered paralysis.

Klenner also discovered that large doses of vitamin C could cure viral pneumonia, hepatitis, chicken pox, measles, mononucleosis, pancreatitis, lockjaw, cystitis and poison ivy.

Vitamin C works by neutralizing viral toxins and stops the formation of new viral units. Or as Dr. Klenner wrote, "Unless our white blood cells are saturated with vitamin C, they are like soldiers without bullets."

I ended a recent talk by stressing that C is an amazing vitamin since it cures so many diverse problems. This vitamin bolsters the immune system and decreases the risk of shingles, promotes healthy gums, guards against mercury and lead toxicity, decreases wrinkles and even neutralizes the venom of rattlesnakes.

At the close of the meeting, a friend standing near the exit door could hear the remarks of those leaving. I would have thought that, having discussed how high doses of vitamin C and lysine could protect against life-threatening heart attack and stroke, this would be foremost in the minds of the audience. But I was terribly wrong. The women were all talking about how vitamin C fights wrinkles!

I find it tragic that 99.9 percent of doctors are unaware of the many medical benefits of vitamin C which could prevent many catastrophes. Medi-C Plus is available at The Healthy Cupboard.



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# ELECT Vance Badawey REGIONAL COUNCILLOR



## *Experience and Leadership.... Getting it done for Port Colborne*

As your Mayor and Regional Councillor for the past 14 years, Vance has a record of putting Port Colborne first.

### VANCE PRESENTED TO REGIONAL COUNCIL AND RECEIVED SUPPORT:

- ✓ To keep our Police Detachment open while cutting more than \$300,000.00 from the Police budget.
- ✓ For a regional and local economic strategy that will retain and create new jobs.
- ✓ For a transportation strategy that will move forward the Mid Peninsula Corridor project.
- ✓ For a transit strategy that will integrate a regional transit system and bring the GO train to Niagara.
- ✓ For the construction of Northland Pointe and an additional \$4 million in upgrades since its construction.

### IN ADDITION, VANCE ALSO:

- ✓ Worked directly with a team of public and private sector partners to retain, expand and bring new Economic Development opportunities to the city.
- ✓ Delivered tax reform in 2008 that enabled regional council to hold the line on taxes to under 1.25% between 2010 and 2014.
- ✓ Brought the city's debt payments down from 9.48% in 2006 to 6.72% of budget by 2014.
- ✓ Delivered to our community over \$80 million in infrastructure investments from all levels of government.
- ✓ Delivered to our Community the Healthy Kids Community Program.
- ✓ Created the South Niagara Health Care Corporation that has integrated our local medical professionals' expertise to ensure that residents continue to receive equal access to Health Care.
- “While working with Vance” to expand Oskam Steel, I continue to be impressed with his work ethic and dedication. I fully support Vance Badawey to continue to represent Port Colborne at the Region as he has for the past 14 years. He has been a strong mayor and regional councillor who listens to all sides of an issue before making an informed decision. His experience, leadership and dedication will ensure he continues to put Port Colborne first.”

Kevin Langerak, General Manager, Oskam Steel Fabricators

## ■ SOCIAL: Stroke survivors group hosting talk with frank, open discussion Verbal abuse painful, debilitating, demeaning

CHERYL CLOCK  
QMI Agency Niagara

Her words stung as she issued her husband an ultimatum: "You've gotta start doing things for yourself, or I'm gonna put you in a nursing home."

George Stafford had survived two strokes, and his wife, Eileen, was suffocating under her role as his caregiver. She was everything to him. She'd fallen recently, blushing with guilt, and turned to herself. She hardly slept at night. If he fell and she wasn't home, she felt guilty for not taking better care of him. If she was away, she'd phone every half hour. If he didn't answer, she'd race back to make sure he was OK.

She thought: If he could only be more independent. More self-reliant.

Her words had been pent up for a long time. And when they spilled, it was like a dam of frustration bursting.

And, yes, regret was instant. "I felt guilty and I felt bad and I apologized," says Eileen, 77.

She loved him. Cared deeply for him. She married George when she was 16. Had three kids by the time she was 22. And felt like "an old lady" when her fourth came at age 22.

They used to dance up a storm at the legion, St. Catharines Branch 24 on Church St. After the strokes,

George developed COPD — chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and died in 2012. They were married 59 years.

He hated being alone. And the guilt of leaving him at home ripped her apart. He fell one day at his daughter's house, and cracked two ribs. She lived through his daughter's home. Eileen had to come up for not being there, too. "I wasn't there and I felt really bad," she says. "It's my fault, I should have been there to help him."

Months of being a caregiver had worn away at her patience. Her ability to cope.

"What do you take your anger out on?" The question pesters. The person who you love," she says.

One of her coping tools was a group of other caregivers she met through Survivors of Stroke Niagara. They'd get together every month, and somehow the simple act of talking and sharing, subdued the intensity of her frustration at home.

Eileen calls it the "humour is a good coping tool, too.)

And she discovered that her feelings were shared by other caregivers.

Often, she'd hear comments like: It would be nice to be appreciated once in awhile.

I can never do anything right. I'm tired too.

I don't have a life anymore.

The SOS group is hosting a discussion on verbal abuse today, by caregivers and by care receivers. It usually happens in private. It doesn't leave physical evidence, like bruises. There are often no witnesses to validate their experience. And it's painful, debilitating and demeaning, says Mang Cyr, the session's facilitator.

"We have to take this subject out of the closet, bring it out and talk about it," says Cyr, 80.

Her husband, Ted, had two strokes and died in 2011 at age 79 of an unrelated medical condition. They were married 56 years.

There were moments when his wife, Linda, lost her patience. Many could be busy making dinner, and Ted would insist she come to him immediately. "Nothing else is more important than what they want in that moment," she says. Other times, after she had helped him cut up food at the dinner table, he'd tell her: "You didn't do it right."

"It wears me out," she says.

The discussion is not about assigning blame, but about having an open talk so people can identify verbal abuse, understand why it happens, and find the coping tools to handle it, she says.

Caregivers burn out and wear out. "A stroke happens to a family, not just the person," she says.

**Continued on next page**



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■ SOCIAL: Stroke survivors group hosting talk with frank, open discussion

# Verbal abuse painful, debilitating, demeaning

## From previous page

Verbal abuse is a pattern. Not one day when you said something bad, says Heather Killy, Brock nursing professor and registered speech-language pathologist. In private practice as a psychotherapist and counsellor, she has counselled abusive parents, and men who abuse.

At its mildest, verbal abuse is about using words to discount and trivialize someone who is vulnerable and dependent on you for their care, attention and love, she says.

It can involve name-calling, blaming, judging, criticizing and name calling. In the extreme, ordering someone around, controlling their

freedom, denying them friends and yelling.

"It's insidious and it makes a person feel isolated, very alone."

"The only source of information about who you are is coming from the person who is abusing you."

Sometimes the abuse is intentional. Other times, the person is unaware.

Many times, the victims don't speak out. "If you depend on someone else to care for you, you're not likely to report the person," says Killy.

"People live with verbal abuse and damaged by it. They don't have their voice," she says.

She is neither condoning the

abuse, or blaming the abusers.

It's about understanding the complicated mix of circumstance and personality that can lead someone to feel overburdened and tired; they have no other supports; they are functioning on little sleep, without breaks; they never learned healthy ways to deal with stress; the caregiver did not have a good relationship with the person before they became ill; they have no training; they are unwell or aging themselves; and they are burdened with new financial responsibilities.

Many times, Eileen handled the stress with humour.

One time, George was yelling

because he'd slipped and fallen in the shower. Eileen came running to his aid, but in the chaos turned the water to ice cold, instead of turning it off.

She's trying to pull him out of the tub. They're both drenched. And she starts laugh-

ing.

"You looked like a beach whale, hun," she told him.

"I could have got killed," he said.

"Yeah," she conceded, "but you're still here."



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ ECOLOGY: Ontario environment commissioner calls for province to limit use of neonicotinoids

## Beekeeper not convinced pesticide behind bee deaths

**ROB HOULE**

QMI Agency Niagara

George Dubanow is dubious.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake beekeeper, who is also president of the Beekeepers Association of Regional Niagara, said he is not "fully convinced" blame for declining bee populations is the result of the widespread use of the neonicotinoid family of pesticides.

"I don't think neonicotinoids are that bad," Dubanow said, admitting his view is not shared by the Ontario Beekeepers Association.

Neonicotinoids are applied as a coating to 99% of corn seeds and 65% of soybean seeds.

Health Canada's pest management regulator, Pest Management Products Council (PMRA) has acknowledged the effects of neonicotinoids on pollinators and implemented protective measures for their use for the 2014 planting season, including a ban on the use of dust released into the environment during the seedling process. The dust containing neonicotinoids, which is a neurotoxin, is believed to be a contributor to the decline in pollinators as the settled dust then runs off the land in rainwater into ditches where it is consumed by bees and other insects and birds.

In late 2013, the European Union instituted a two-year moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids in the face of declining honey bee populations. That ban is being fought in court by the makers of neonicotinoids.

Here in Canada, the National Farmers Union in 2013 called for a "precautionary five-year moratorium on the use of the neonicotinoid seed treatments for field crops and for independent research to be done."

In September, a group of Ontario beekeepers served notice they were seeking injunction status to sue Bayer Crop Science and Syngenta, claiming the chemical companies were negligent in the manufacture, sale and distribution of neonicotinoids in Ontario that caused beekeepers significant financial losses. The beekeepers said they would be seeking \$45 million.

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Jeff Leal announced in July he was moving to limit the amount of neonicotinoids applied to Ontario's farm fields.

Environmental Minister Miller, Ontario commissioner on the environment, released an annual report with a scathing commentary on the use of neonicotinoids.

"All the science is not done, but everything I have before me ... suggests to me as an ecologist that this is the biggest threat to the structure and ecological integrity of the environment I have ever been exposed to in my life. Bigger than DDT," Miller said last Tuesday, following the release of the report.

DTT was an insecticide widely used until it was banned in the 1970s after studies showed it was hazardous to wildlife and the environment.

Miller urged the province to act independently of the federal government in phasing out the use of neonicotinoids and to return to a system of integrated pest management — crop rotation, bio controls — that would see the use of pesticides as a last resort.

Dubanow, a fourth-generation beekeeper of 20 years, said he believes a decline in the bee population is more likely the results of drought, varroa mites, diseases or beekeepers not paying close enough attention to the hygiene of hives.

He cited as an example the time when bees feeding at a clover field in Niagara-on-the-Lake this summer where corn was planted last year.

"My bees were collecting clover (pollen and nectar)



George Dubanow is photographed by his bee hives in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Wednesday October 8, 2014.

from the beginning of June till now, and that means my bees should be poisoned from the systemic neonicotinoids in the canola oil and pollen and the neocotinoids would be sucking up those poisons from the ground ... my bees haven't died."

Dubanow said beekeepers who claim neonicotinoids have killed their bees should provide proof by having their dead bees tested for confirmation, "but they're not doing that."

not reported mass die-offs of bees.

"So that opened up my eyes, and I said at a minute, there's something going on here. We're being exposed."

He said he knows of many beekeepers with hives around corn fields who have not been affected.

"So that tells me there's something else going on," Dubanow said.

For George Scott, managing director of Niagara Beeswax, there is no question neonicotinoids are behind the mass destruction of bees.

"From the Niagara Beeswax viewpoint — we do the actual testing — and the lethality of (neonicotinoids) cannot be questioned," said Scott, who is also a Wainfleet beekeeper and petrochemical company executive.

Scott, who has lobbied all levels of Canadian government warning against the dangers of neonicotinoids, said while 100% of his bees in 25 hives survived Niagara's harsh winter, he lost 70% of them when they began foraging for food and water in the spring. Testing, he said, shows the bees died from neonicotinoid poisoning he attributes to residual pesticides in soil and in pond water, streams and runoff in ditches.

"You can't say it's not having a negative effect on bees. It is having a negative effect on bees. That's why 800 peer review studies are happening," Scott said.

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# LOCAL NEWS

**HEALTH:** Toddler, parents learning to live with asthma

# Fighting for air

**CHERYL CLOCK**  
QMI Agency Niagara

If her son laughed too much, she would tell him to stop.

Too much laughter meant he would inevitably start coughing. And after nearly two years of dealing with his respiratory problems, trips to the doctor's office were not that turned into unexplained coughing spells during the day if he laughed, cried or ran around too much, and after existing with a plethora of puffers for most of his life, she lived with one, overwhelming fear: he will stop breathing.

Mom Victoria Pollar knows how hard it must sound — that she was scared to let her kid be a kid.

But before 2½-year-old Sean was diagnosed with asthma, and before she learned how to manage it with help from the asthma clinic at the St. Catharines hospital, she lived with the exhaustive anxiety.

In those days when he was four weeks old, he contracted an upper-respiratory virus that turned into pneumonia. In fact, he would have pneu-

monia four times before he turned two. And in the times between, he always seemed to be fighting a cold and cough.

For the first six months of his life, his parents took turns sitting him upright in a reclining chair through the night, keeping him upright and listening to him breathe though their own quasi-sleep.

When he was older, he slept in a crib in his own bedroom, his mattress raised at one end to help him breathe better and cough less. They tried everything. Cool mist vaporizer, window open, Windows closed.

Always a baby monitor at their bedside. Listening.

When they heard him cough, at least they were reassured he was breathing.

"If we didn't hear anything, we worried," she says. "Every sound, we'd get up and check."

For nearly two years, it continued. Wore on her. "I wasn't empowered at the time to do things myself," she says. Until their family doctor suspected asthma, sent them to a pediatrician, who confirmed it. All the symptoms added up — the coughing, the repeated

times when he was sick, the shortness of breath when he ran around.

Just before he turned two, he had his first visit to the asthma clinic where he saw respiratory therapy therapist Diane Michaud.

She helped his parents, Victoria and Ryan, develop a plan, so they would know what to do for specific symptoms.

Asthma happens when inflammation inside the bronchial tubes in the airways to the lungs cause mucus to form for air to flow through the smaller, swollen passageways, and muscles are so tight air can't pass through easily.

The goal is to manage the condition to the point of no symptoms, says Michaud. No coughing or wheezing. No shortness of breath. No sleep interruptions.

According to the Asthma Society of Canada, nearly 11% of children aged four to 11, 11% of youth aged 12 to 19, and 8% of adults have asthma. It seems as children grow into adults, the symptoms go away, although the reason is unclear, says Rob Oliphant, president and CEO.

And it sometimes returns,

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Asthma Action Helpline: 1-888-344-5864; www.on lung.ca or www. KidsAsthma.ca  
Asthma Society of Canada: 1-866-787-4050; www.asthma.ca

he says.

Indeed, there are many different types of asthma: childhood-onset asthma caused by allergies; pregnancy-induced asthma and asthma triggered by exercise, occupation (think hairdressers), even adult onset.

But among children, September is the worst for visits to hospital. Experts believe it's due to changes in the weather, fall allergy triggers, mold and dust mites in schools that have been closed over the summer and being around children with colds, which can trigger an attack in a child with asthma.

In one year, from April 2013 to March 2014, there were 553 visits by youths 18 years and younger to the Niagara Health



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Sean Pollar, 2 1/2.

System's emergency departments and urgent-care centres because of asthma.

And while there is no consensus guidance among experts, the Asthma Society wants all children with asthma who have been prescribed a puffer to be able to carry the inhaler and use it themselves while at school, with a space kept at the school office.

An Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP is pushing to have a law passed that would require other things, like children with asthma carry an inhaler with them at all times. It would be called Ryan's Law, named after 12-year-old Ryan Gibbons, who died after an asthma attack at his school in 2012. His inhaler was kept locked in the principal's office.

Even if you aren't everything, whether you're a child or parent. At the first visit to the asthma clinic, Victoria broke down and cried. "It was such a relief to have a plan,"

she says.

"To know what I was doing. To feel confident that I was doing the right thing."

And while he's not yet gained weight because he's eating better, And this summer, his parents bought Sean and his older brother, five-year-old Mackenzie, an inflatable bouncy castle. Sean bounces around until he's hot and sweaty — an activity that would otherwise have worn Victoria out, and triggered a coughing fit. See photo.

Michaud wants parents to understand that asthma can be controlled. That it shouldn't prevent kids from being kids.

"It shouldn't stop you from doing things you want to do," she says.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## BUSINESS

# Sears CEO celebrates Welland store's 25th year

DAN DAKIN

QMI Agency Niagara

The Welland Sears location marked its 25th anniversary last Tuesday, but the company's CEO said making it through another 25 years will require a new way of doing business.

Sears Canada president and CEO Doug Campbell, who announced two weeks ago he will leave the company later this year, told store employees inside the Seaway Mall location that loyalty is Sears' "customers' biggest advantage."

"If you walked to the other end of the mall or down the street to The Bay I don't know they would have an origi-

nal eight," he said after recognizing all current Sears employees who were hired a month before the store opened in 1989.

"He's so much loyalty in our stores."

Among that group of Day 1 employees is Kim Nickel, who said there's also loyalty with shoppers.

"Our customers have always been kind of an older base, but they're loyal. It seems like you know everyone by name, or at least by face," she said.

Sears Canada has struggled financially in the past few years, and Campbell's impending departure is looked at by some experts as another bad sign.

But the outgoing CEO said things are looking up.

"If you take a look at our last quarterly financial statements, we're in a very good financial position," he said. "We have the cash on hand, the resources, a lot of assets, to fund whatever transformation initiatives you want to put in place."

He said the company is trying to keep itself relevant by not offering a uniform format in every market.

"One of the big strategies we have is taking a more community-based and local

approach, rather than a national one," he said.

"To say like McDonald's, where a McDonald's here is the same as one in Vancouver, isn't the way we need to approach Sears."

In Toronto, for example, stores are tailored more toward higher-end fashion lines.

To help keep the Welland store — and similar small-market locations — competitive, Sears has unveiled a "Plus" format that refers to stores heavily signed with discounted prices.

"It's not distressed or last season's goods. It's this season's merchandise, but always at sale at a great discount," said Campbell.

He said local store managers are also being given more power to make decisions on everything from what's in the store to how advertising dollars are spent in the community.

"From marketing to merchandising, we have to make sure the store fits that community," he said.

That puts the pressure on the shoulders of Welland store

general manager Jacqueline McCallum, who said customers are enjoying the new format.

"We've seen an increase in sales," said McCallum, a Smithville native who has worked at three other Sears locations in Hamilton and Burlington. "The customers are loving that they're getting an extra percentage off. Those loyal customers are coming back to shop again and again."

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DAN DAKIN/STAFF PHOTO

Sears Canada president and CEO Doug Campbell speaks at the Sears location inside the Seaway Mall Tuesday morning. The store was marking its 25th anniversary.



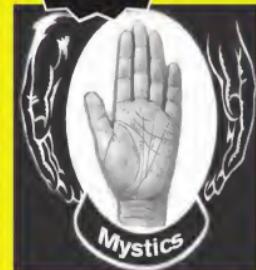
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## POVERTY SERIES

# Taking direct aim at poverty

**CHERYL CLOCK**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Subsidized or no-cost bus passes. Flexible childcare hours for shift workers. Improved customer service for social assistance clients. And a poverty reduction strategy with targets and timelines.

Just some ideas in a new report from the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network on exactly what municipal and regional governments can

and should do to take direct aim on poverty.

And it's sharing the report with local political candidates.

Think of it as a conversation starter, especially as the municipal election approaches, says Elisabeth Zimmermann, NPNR chairperson and executive director at the YWCA.

"There's not been a conversation around how we are supporting the most vulner-

able in our community," says Zimmermann.

Niagara needs a poverty reduction strategy. A plan to combat poverty. To keep the region and municipalities on track, says Zimmermann.

"It means that when you form policy or make decisions, you measure it by asking, 'Is this helping people to move out of poverty?' she says.

A strategy would touch on issues like transportation, childcare and housing, set-

ting targets and timelines, she says.

And yes, to be fair, local government has its share of challenges, such as a smaller tax base, and shrinking federal and provincial government investments. Yet, social infrastructure needs to be as important as the physical, she says.

Briefly, here are some ideas from the report:

Transportation: Subsidized or no-cost bus passes. "It's can

Niagara's Ontario Works caseload has increased by 50% since 2008, provincial average increase during same period was 22%

Niagara region has nearly 6,000 households on its affordable housing wait list  
Source: Niagara Poverty

Reduction Network

**More information:**  
For more details on the Niagara Poverty Reduction Network's report, Creating Shared Prosperity and Leading by Example, visit [www.wipeoutpoverty.ca/](http://www.wipeoutpoverty.ca/)

be the difference between getting to your job and not," says Zimmermann.

While there are gas and bus passes subsidies available for some people on Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program — if they're looking for work or need to travel to medical ap-

ointments — it should be available to a broader range of people living in poverty, including the working poor.

It also needs to address the fact that not everyone works a 9-to-5 shift, she says.

*Continued on next page*

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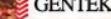


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## ■ POVERTY SERIES

# Taking direct aim at poverty

## From previous page

**Economic development:** People need jobs that pay a living wage. "We need to create jobs that will pay them enough to keep them self-sufficient," says Zimmerman.

**Development:** Give municipalities the power to ensure developers of new-builds include some affordable hous-

ing units. "Right now, it's too piecemeal," says Lori Klein-smith, chair of the NPNR's advocacy committee and health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre in Port Colborne.

Decisions that affect communities need to be made through the lens of poverty, says Angela Browne, a paralegal who advocates for issues facing the poor.

Case in point: Western Hill's high school, West Park secondary, has closed, and so has its community pool. The closest library is downtown. Even getting to Seymour-Hannah requires a car or bus trip. "It affects quality of life," she says.

At night there is no close bus

stop to city's newest pool — the Kiwanis Aquatics Centre. And how about improved customer service for social assistance clients. She has represented people whose cheques have been withheld due to red tape and paperwork.

Brian Bay, regional councillor, points out that since 2008, Niagara has funnelled \$1.5 million of its own dollars annually into poverty reduction and prevention through the Niagara Prosperity Initiative.

However, he'd like to see the region continue to lobby provincial and federal governments for a more equitable share of funds for homelessness.

And regional councillor Brian Hall wants government to rethink old assumptions. "We keep doing the same things over and over again and it doesn't work," he says.

"We invest heavily in the physical, bridges and roads," he says. "When they are crum-

pling we have to deal with them right away."

Social infrastructure merits the same urgency. Niagara should lobby higher levels of government for more affordable housing funds, and direct financial resources to the poor, rather than high paid staff to handle paperwork.

"I'd rather flow money back

to the people who are desperate," he says.

cheryl.clock@sunmedia.ca



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **WILDLIFE:** Headlines about mountain lions elsewhere in Ontario and Alberta fuel thoughts about this region's elusive cat

## Is a cougar still on the prowl in Niagara?

**GREG FURNINGER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

The shooting of a cougar at a Canby Hospital in Monroe, and the trapping of one south of Hwy. 401 this summer, gives pause to think about Niagara's most elusive feline.

The cougar.

While DNA testing several years ago confirmed the presence of at least one cougar in south Niagara, there's been no confirmation it's still prowling about in the region's wild.

Chris Davies, head of wildlife research for the Ontario Natural Resources Ministry and an adjunct professor at Trent University, says there's a long-running debate with his colleagues about whether a cougar has ever talked about subject. "1,001 Reasons Why I Didn't Get a Picture of the Cougar."

That's not to be confused with the other phantom

tom feline that has captured most of Niagara's attention over the past decade.

The so-called "black panther"

— or some type of other exotic feline — that may have been seen in recent months.

Niagara's big, black cat sightings in areas of Fort Erie in 2000 and 2001, but black cat sightings have been reported sporadically over the past decade.

August 2010 story that ran in Niagara newspapers showed a sharp photo of what appeared to be a big, black cat, possibly a hunter's automatic "critter cam" in a farmer's Wainfleet field in late August.

In May 2011 a "black panther" was reported to have been seen roaming around Welland's Dain City area, where it was also said to have been seen six months earlier.

More recently, on Feb.

12 of this year, a Pelham woman captured on film what she described as "a very large, large cat" walking opposite her Foss Rd. home in a wooded field that connects to a large pond where children skate in the winter and which backs onto Pelham's Hough Park.

"I'm convinced it was either a panther or another large, black, exotic cat," Michelle Gretzinger says.

Her video posted to YouTube the next day and called "Big black cat in Fenwick" as of Monday had been viewed 65 times. It can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmc\\_HTy-7rc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmc_HTy-7rc).

Most recently, in early August, Pelham residents pointed to a large black cat as a possible killer of pet cats in the Ontario and Effingham St. area.

Davies suggested coyotes as a possible culprit.

But back to the cougar. The ministry classifies the Eastern cougar in this province as extinct. The last one was shot and killed near Collingwood in 1884.

But while it has been estimated there may be as many as 500 cougars now roaming Ontario's woods within an area measuring 1.5 million square kilometres.

Those "free-ranging" cougars, Davies says, fit into three — maybe four — categories: the most likely being they are zoo escapes, were grown pets deliberately released into the wild, or migrants from the U.S.

The fourth possibility is that it could be a remnant of the native cougars that went extinct here in the 1800s.

While there has been solid evidence that they are in Ontario, there is nothing to suggest from where the cougars came.

Through DNA testing, the



37°C 84°/68°/10 67°/13 PM 538RJOQ63

This black cat was captured on a hunter's automatic "critter cam" near a pile of rotten feed in a farmer's Wainfleet field in late April 2010.

ministry confirmed that scat discovered in Wainfleet Bog in 2005 was that of a cougar.

A paper by the MNR's top cougar man, Rick Rosate — Titled Evidence Confirms the Presence of Cougars (*Puma concolor*) in Ontario, Canada — shows 497 pieces of evidence confirmed that cougars were present in Ontario from 1991 to 2010, including scat, hair, DNA, tracks and photos.

*Continued on next page*

OCTOBER 26, 2014

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for more information.



# LOCAL NEWS

■ **WILDLIFE:** Headlines about mountain lions elsewhere in Ontario and Alberta fuel thoughts about this region's elusive cat

## Is a cougar still prowling in Niagara?

From previous page

That someone would photograph a cougar in Niagara, therefore, would be rare, too.

"It is really tricky because they're elusive animals; they don't want to be seen," says Tanya Puffer, a former ministry worker now employed as a citizens science co-ordinator for Ontario Nature.

Puffer routinely received calls about sightings in Ontario's eastern townships. Many times submitted photos just don't cut it in identifying the animal that had been seen.

"It's really hard to tell from the trail signs you get," Puffer says. "Even for the experts."

Face-to-face is the best determinant.

And that happened last month in Alberta, when a tawny cougar seen lurking at a construction site before moving to the nearby grounds of the South Health Campus hospital in Calgary was shot dead by wildlife officers. The animal was possibly pushed toward the city by cold temperatures and a hankering for food.

Rosette's research found one hypothesis that cougars have immigrated into

Ontario from the western U.S. states and western Canadian provinces. The cats are capable of moving 50 kilometres a night. His paper references one radio-collared female that travelled 960 km from South Dakota to Saskatchewan before it was shot in 2008. Another couger from that same South Dakota study, he writes, travelled 1,060 km to Oklahoma.

Closer to home — in July, a full-sized cougar that had been seen wandering north of Grafton, east of Cobourg, was captured, but it had all the traits of a domesticated cougar, also known as a puma.

Darvies says if anyone does see a big cat and is concerned about the safety of themselves or others, the first phone call should be to police.

Calls can be made to the ministry, as well.

About five or six cougar sightings reports from across Ontario land on Darvies' desk each week.

greg.lunney@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @GregTheFerb

— with files from QMI Agency archives

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Charlie the cougar, captured by the Ministry of Natural Resources on July 11 in Riverview Park and Zoo in Peterborough, is pictured at the Riverview Park and Zoo in Peterborough on July 30.

CLIFFORD SHANSTROM/QMI AGENCY

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## HEALTH CARE

# Time of ER stays falling at NHS

**GRANT LAFLEUR**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Health System says it has made significant progress in reducing the amount of time patients stay in the emergency room before being admitted to hospital.

Derek McNally, NHS executive vice-president of clinical services, said ER stays have been cut by approximately 30% from the spring, when they were as long as two days.

When the NHS took stock of

how long patients were staying in the ER in the spring, the numbers were not good.

"We were definitely not performing well," McNally said last Wednesday. "At that time, a patient that was in the emergency department and going to be admitted was in the department for two days."

That figure does not represent two days of waiting to see a doctor. The clock starts running when a patient is triaged in the ER and doesn't stop until the patient is placed in a bed elsewhere in the

hospital.

McNally said by changing processes, working more closely with other departments and improving their bed management system, the NHS was able to reduce the length of stay to just under 34 hours.

"That is a considerable improvement, but we still have more work to do," said McNally, who said the NHS is aiming to get to 28 hours.

McNally points out that these long stays in the emergency room are not typical for most patients.

These are stays for 10 of ER patients who need to be admitted to hospital.

The lengthy waits are caused by difficulty in moving patients from the ER to appropriate beds in the hospital. Demand for beds is always high and when there are no free beds, patients have to wait. This can cause a domino effect, increasing stays in the ER and even waits to see a doctor.

It is not a problem unique to Niagara. Last week the Canadian Institute for Health Information released a report looking at the length of ER stays, and found it to be an issue from coast to coast.

Anjita Pal of CIHI said the institute looked at more than 10 million ER visits in Canada, a figure that represents about 60% of all ER visits.

They found one in 10 ER patients spent nearly 29 hours in an ER before being admitted.

Pal said they also looked at patients older than 65 and found one in four seniors were being admitted from the ER and

stayed more than 25 hours.

Pal said hospitals across the nation are programs to try and improve the situation.

However, she said a significant part of the solution won't be found in hospitals themselves.

"Many hospitals are look at community-based care for people who don't need to be admitted to a hospital, but can receive care at home or another facility," she said. "Improvements to other parts of the health-care system are very important."

McNally said NHS staff meet twice daily to review the case load in the ER and where beds are available elsewhere in the hospital system.



**THANK YOU** for helping to raise \$1,000 for Port Cares at our 5th annual Charity BBQ. Frank Stewart, Sandy White, Michael Stefaniuk and the Whites' Insurance Team present Port Cares with 100% of the proceeds from this year's event. The Verge Insurance Group has raised over \$40,000 to help local charities with their annual BBQs.



L to R: Frank Stewart, Sandy White, Whites' Insurance, Christine Clark-Lafleur, Amanda Upper, Port Cares, Daria Zacharchuk, Michael Stefaniuk, Sandra Elliott and Lindsay Sathmary, Whites' Insurance.

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## New Time Wainfleet Household Hazardous Waste Day

**Saturday, Oct. 25, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Wainfleet Arena (parking lot)  
Park Street, Wainfleet**

This event is open to all Niagara region residents. No commercial, institutional or industrial waste is accepted.

Gasoline will not be decanted at the depot. The container and the contents will be taken for safe disposal.

Please refer to [www.niagararegion.ca/waste](http://www.niagararegion.ca/waste) for a full list of acceptable materials and packaging and handling requirements.

All material that is brought to the event is recycled, reused or disposed of in a safe and proper manner.

**Waste Info-line: 905-356-4141  
Toll-free: 1-800-594-5542**

**Niagara Region**

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.

The Wainfleet Lion's Club will also be holding its annual food collection drive for area food banks.

### Example of Acceptable Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- Aerosol cans
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Gasoline
- Lawn care products
- Motor oil
- Pool chemicals
- Paint
- Propane tanks
- Solvents
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# Top Shelf

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These four wines prevailed over the nearly 1,350 submissions tasted at this year's InterVin competition. Our category champions for red, white, dessert and sparkling hail from Australia, Canada and Spain. Our diligent judges saved their highest scores for an affordable yet serious Cava, a honeyed late harvest Sauvignon Blanc, a fragrant Pinot Blanc and a splash-worthy Barossa Valley Shiraz.

#### RING CYCLE

Clos du Soleil Winery

2010 Sauvignon Select

Late Harvest Okanagan Valley

\$28.90/375 mL

(742676)

This exotic and honeyed late harvest Sauvignon Blanc bested kiwishes and other more expensive wines to take top honours in its sweet wine category. Judges loved its lushious core of tropical fruit and intensely perfumed nose that presented a range of textbook ripe Sauvignon Blanc notes. *closedcircle.ca*

#### PLATINUM PLUS

Wild Goose Winery

2009 Pinot Label

Shiras Barossa Valley

\$14.25 (2059640)

This year's competition was a strong showing for Cava, with three serious contenders making it to the final. Segura Viudas' classic Brut bottling won the day, but its lively, intense, citrusy character and refreshing finish, Ranked as a Best Value Winner, the stunning quality for the price make this ideal for entertaining or everyday enjoyment.

#### CHOICE CAVA

Wild Goose Winery

Brut Reserve Cava Spain

\$14.25 (2059640)

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& *VINES* InterVin issue



**CHARITY**

# 'Sleep Cheap has staying power' Make your reservations now

**RAY SPITERI**

QMI Agency Niagara

It's that time of year again.

Niagara residents can book rooms at Niagara Falls' favorite hotels at reduced prices — and local charities will be better off for it. Sleep Cheap Charities Reap Is

back for its 11th year as reservations for 24 hotels can now be made.

It will run from Nov. 9 to 13. Minimum donations start at \$35 a night for a standard room, \$45 for a Fallsview room, \$65 for a whirlpool room and \$85 for a room with access to a waterpark.

All of the money raised will go to

local charities.

More than \$130,000 was raised from the popular event last year. Since Mayor Jim Diodati created the fundraiser in 2003, it has raised more than \$1.3 million.

Charities interested in receiving a donation from the event can apply to the Sleep Cheap committee.

tee at [www.niagarafalls.ca](http://www.niagarafalls.ca). The deadline to apply is Nov. 19 at noon.

Recipients will be selected by the committee and will be announced in Decem-

ber. Diodati said Sleep Cheap raises between \$130,000-\$150,000 each year and that he never imagined the event would grow to be as popular as it is today.

He added that 90 per cent of the money goes to charity. There is no administrative expense. It all stays in Niagara and all the charities, although not exclusively, must service Niagara Falls residents in some way and they have to be a Niagara-based charity," he said.

"All the major properties in Niagara Falls participate and they do so willingly, there is no arm twisting. There would be no Sleep Cheap if not for the generosity of the hoteliers and the tourism industry."

Diodati said the event is popular because it allows the hotel industry to give back to the community, while locals get an "amazing deal at world-class properties, whether it be a romantic break for couples or a family-friendly break."

"Sleep Cheap has staying power, it has not fizzled out. It is growing in popularity."

ray.spiteri@sunmedia.ca  
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Fallsview

Great Wolf Lodge (waterpark)

Hampton Inn North of the Falls

Hilton Hotel &amp; Suites Fallsview

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\*See page 4 of this issue

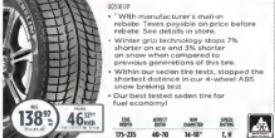
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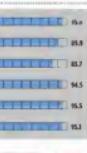
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■ HAUNT MANOR: Massive scary attraction back for 5th year



MICHELE DEBETTISTA/STAFF PHOTO

Phil Van Kleef and his team are starting to set up for the annual Haunt Manor at his Lundy's Lane campground. The entire production at Campark Resorts in Niagara Falls is one of the country's largest haunted attractions, taking months to set up.

## Let the screaming begin

JOHN LAW  
QMI Agency Niagara

It's time for Phil Van Kleef to make grown men scream again.

Every September, the corn stalks, creepy-crawlies and party bats come out at his Lundy's Lane campground. And every year, plenty of tough guys can't take it.

"I had a team of football players in the ghost tunnels, we call them," says the spook specialist behind the annual Haunt Manor at Campark Resorts. "They screamed like a five-year-old girl and fell on their backs, all of them."

The annual fright fest, which caught the attention of *Fangoria* magazine last year, returns starting Friday night, and Van Kleef is adding new effects this year. It seems this year, The already long hay ride has been extended to one kilometre and people will enjoy a few additions, including the Witches Cavern, 3-D Freak House and illusionist Edward Stone.

The entire production — one of the country's largest haunted attractions — is so complex it takes months to set up. All to give people a good scare.

In addition to the scary parts, about 30 performers roam the grounds tormenting visitors, popping out when least expected. They're all trained actors who know how to rattle people. Some, like Chewy the Clown, have become recurring characters.

"They've made their own backgrounds and have actual fans."

As a kid, Van Kleef loved attractions like *Pirates of the Caribbean* at Disney World, and knew his dad Peter's spacious campground on Lundy's Lane would be perfect for an interactive horror attraction.

He invested about \$150,000 for the first year in 2010, and since then has put nearly \$500,000 into making it an eerie event.

"My dad thinks I'm crazy, but once it starts up, he's like, 'Oh, wow!'

Considering the lengths he goes, it's surprising that Van Kleef isn't a horror fan. He's a father of three, the son of a Stoic mom and aims for that theme — more gothic horror than slasher. But it's still not for the faint of heart — a separate Children's Day is held Oct. 11 minus the gore and mayhem.

About 5,000 people showed up last year, says Van Kleef. The busiest weekend was the one before Halloween, with three-hour lineups to get in.

Even while waiting in line, performers keep the crowd engaged with a theater show.

People who don't want to take the full \$35 tour (hay ride and haunted houses) can do each on their own for \$20.

The full experience takes more than an hour.

Screaming football players aside, has Van Kleef ever scared anyone too much? "No. Everyone walks out laughing."

john.law@sunmedia.ca



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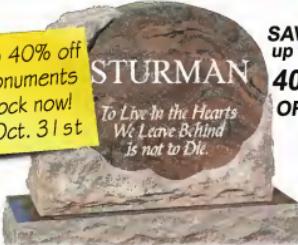
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■ MERIDIAN CENTRE: Spectator facility impresses in media tour

## New arena has 'wow' factor

DON FRASER

QMI Agency Niagara

**I**t's the biggest and most advanced arena ever built in Niagara. And there isn't a bad seat in the house.

Among the standout qualities of the new \$50-million Meridian Centre is a design that creates a flawless view of the ice.

"It's an open bowl — no matter where you sit, you're going to have a great seat. This really is a pretty spectacular place to go to a game," said marketing director Kay McMillan, who spoke before a sneak peek media tour of the complex located in the former lower parking lot.

The City of St. Catharines-owned facility will be operated by SMG, and is the new home of the Niagara IceDogs, who play their home opener tonight. Among other features, it will also be a sports and entertainment destination. Linda Green, who performs as City Girl Colour, is set to play as the centre's official opening act on Tuesday, Oct. 21.

The 160,000-square-foot facility — which officially broke ground in December 2012 — will have 5,300 seats for hockey games and room for 6,000-plus during concerts.

It also has sections of retractable seating that can be moved to allow hand cranes to seamlessly set up or tear down stages.

Another feature is the St. Catharines sports wall of fame and new hall of fame with glass cases.

The stunning IceDogs dressing room is indeed a well-appointed training area, and space is available for six other dressing rooms.

Before the taping, Mayor Brian McMullan spoke of the "wow" factor expressed by people who've explored the facility.

"Even for myself, it has turned out far better and has exceeded my expectations," said McMullan, over the banging and clacking noises of the IceDogs practicing on the ice.

"For many people have had a hand in making this facility a reality."

The project was delivered on time, and on budget. Outside it features two bridges, worth \$2 million, that were donated by Tom Rankin, whose company partnership Ball-Rankin Construction was awarded the construction contract.

Meridian executive Wade Stayzer spoke of his credit union proudly agreeing to a "partnership" rather than a sponsorship. Meridian got the naming rights for the facility after a donation of \$5.23 million over 25 years.

"I'm sure the Meridian Centre is going to live up to your expectations of being a first-class spectator facility," he said.

Rick Lane, the city's director of corporate strategic initiatives, praised the building's craftsmanship and "best practices" gleaned from other spectator facilities.

"What's the 'wow' factor? — the building and its workmanship," he said, adding the site had a perfect construction record.

IceDogs owner Bill Burke was equally effusive.

"We moved in last Monday. The hockey side, after hockey practice yesterday, came marching over," Burke said.

"In my business career ... that most exciting day was Tuesday, when everyone moved over."

don.fraser@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter @don\_stdard

### MERIDIAN CENTRE FACTS

Average number of construction workers per day: 85

Official groundbreaking: Dec. 20, 2012

Square footage: 160,000

Number of piles driven: 355

Steel for the piles: 850 tonnes

Toilets: 84

Seats for hockey: 5,300

Seating capacity: 16,000-plus

Ceiling height: 15.5 metres

Rink slab: 240-cubic metres of concrete used to fill the rink slab.

Bridges: The bridges, worth \$2 million, were donated by Tom Rankin and use 270 tonnes of concrete.

Four girders are needed for the span of the south bridge, while the north bridge will have six girders.

Scoreboard: By Daktronics, costs \$850,000 and is state-of-the-art.

— information provided by Meridian Centre

**■ TV SHOOT:** Production sets up at Loretto

# Sci-Fi series 12 Monkeys films in Falls

JOHN LAW

QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Falls' historic Loretto Academy will be skip-  
ping through time for a new sci-fi show.

Production for the SyFy series *12 Monkeys* spent last Wednesday and Thursday on the 153-year-old building on Stanley Ave. for scenes which take place in the year 2043.

"It was exciting," said building co-owner Tony Zappalitti, who counted about 40 production trucks parked outside the former school.

Show publicist Katherine Holmes said the series, based on the 1995 film directed by Terry Gilliam, started production in August and will pre-miere on SyFy in January.

Though she wouldn't discuss details of the scenes being filmed at Loretto, she said they take place in a military academy. About seven cast members were set to appear.

Following the film's plot, the series is about a reluctant man sent back in time to prevent the spread of a deadly plague which will eventually wipe out the human race. Aaron Stanford (Pryo from two X-Men movies) will play the role Bruce Willis performed in the film, while Jim Noonan (*Damages*, *Hell on Wheels*) plays the villainous head of the Army of the 12 Monkeys, who are central to a conspiracy around the plague.

Brad Pitt earned his first Oscar nomination playing a

mentally patient in the film. The character will be a woman in the series, played by Montreal's Emily Hampshire (*Castropolis*, *Rookie Blue*).

Holliston confirmed cast member Keri Russell, seen in this summer's *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* and last season on *The Walking Dead*, and respected German actress Barb Sukowa were filming scenes in the Falls.

Filming took place from about 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. last Wednesday. Rich Merlino, running for Niagara Falls city council in the upcoming municipal election, saw the notice for extras on Facebook and spent the entire day on set.

\* It was an eye-opening

experience," he said. "The professionalism, the amount of people and crew, was really interesting."

Merlino as especially intrigued by the financial implications.

"I've always wondered why we can't attract more filming companies to this area," he said. "I spotted probably 60 people (in the crew) staying all week in Niagara. And they hired a local catering company."

Merlino played a parent to one of those military school students during his brief time on camera.

"I guess I'll be sitting around the TV in January to see if I'm on (the show) at all."

Though it films many of



JOHN LAW / STAFF PHOTO

Filming of the new show *12 Monkeys*, based on the 1995 movie, took place at Loretto Academy on Stanley Avenue Wednesday and Thursday.

its shoots north of the border (*Being Human*, *Last Girl, Continuum*), the NBC-owned SyFy is not available in Canada. *12 Monkeys* will be seen

on Showcase in Canada in January.

john.law@sunmedia.ca



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- Created more opportunities to engage residents.
- Barrick spearheaded new performance evaluation for Senior Management.
- A Fairness Advisor, Monitor and Auditor have been added as part of the Region's Procurement Policy to ensure an open, fair and impartial procurement process.
- Barrick was a leader in the organizational changes at the Region Initiated by Council in 2013. By focusing on ONE TEAM and building trust and confidence with each other, we have achieved real results and earned the trust and confidence of our partners. By making municipalities more Prosperous and healthy, together we can build a stronger Niagara. (CAO 14-2014 October 2, 2014)

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Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014

Location: Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2014

Location: Port Colborne Mall, 287 West Side Road

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

[WWW.DAVIDBARRICK.CA](http://WWW.DAVIDBARRICK.CA)